THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir, Rajiv Sagar (Bawanthadi) major project is an inter-state project between Madhya Prasesh and Maharashtra.

(b) Additional forest land of 59.969 ha. is to be acquired in Madhya Pradesh and 349.069 ha. of forest land is to be acquired in Maharashtra totalling to 409.038 ha. Revised proposal for acquisition of forest land in Madhya Pradesh is submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India (MOEF, GOI) on 18.10.2006. Similarly, revised proposal for acquisition of additional forest land in Maharashtra is submitted to the MOEF,GOI on 11.08.2006. Officers of MOEF,GOI have inspected the sites and submitted report to the Government of India for approval for diversion of forest land for project purpose. 8 villages fully and 2 villages partially in Maharahstra are affected due to submergence from Bawanthadi Reservoir involving 942.46 ha. of private land. Resettlement and rehabilitation work in Maharashtra is being done by the State Government of Maharashtra and work is targeted for completion by June 2007 by the Government of Maharashtra. In Madhya Pradesh, no population is affected. Only 82.58 ha. of private land is affected which has already been acquired.

Maharashtra Government is paying its share cost of the project whenever due and at present, there is no deadlock on this account.

(c) Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra portion of the project were brought under AIBP during 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The total Central Assistance provided to these States in that order is Rs. 48.67 crore and Rs. 44.069 crore.

Pench project of Chindwara, Madhya Pradesh

†1634. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that action is being taken for getting assistance from externally financed 'Indo-German Bilateral Development Corporation' for Pench project of Chindwara in Madhya Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, status of the action being taken at present alongwith details thereof; and

(c) by when the financial assistance would be obtained and status of the project at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir. However, a proposal of Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking loan assistance for Pench Diversion Project has been included in the Rolling Plan 2007-10 of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

(b) and (c) Do not apply.

Declaration of 2007 as water year

1635. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to declare 2007 as Water Year for the country;

(b) if so, the issues that are going to be focused in 2007;

(c) whether there is any plan to focus on irrigation in 2007 as a part of declaring it as water year;

(d) if so, what plans does his Ministry as referred to part (C) above particulary for Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government have identified 31 districts to pay more attention; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has declared the Year-2007 as "Water Year" with the focus on;

(i) developing consensus on appropriate measures including legislation on better management of the water sector including participatory irrigation management, regulated use and conservation;